

City of Newton



PUBLIC BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

A. NICHOLAS PARNELL, AIA, COMMISSIONER

Telephone (617) 552-7007

FAX (617) 969-5795

52 ELLIOT STREET

NEWTON HIGHLANDS, MA 02461-1605

Maintenance Division 552-7188

Design Division 552-7009/7010

Energy Division 552-7008

David B. Cohen

July 23, 2002

Mary Cottrell
Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station – 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Subject: D.T.E. 02-40 – Investigation into Provision of Default Service

I was unable to attend for very long today's hearing at your offices concerning the above order. The hearing room was extremely uncomfortable; with a very high temperature; inadequate seating arrangements and very poor air quality. As an alternative to commenting at the hearing, the following comments are submitted.

The City of Newton's Energy Commission has been exploring the rewards and risks of municipal purchasing options. The rewards could include higher economic growth and lower cost for all of Newton. Additional advantages include increased local involvement in energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. Mayor David B. Cohen signed a March 7, 2002 memorandum of understanding with the Mass Energy Consumers Alliance (Mass Energy). In return for assistance with their study of the feasibility of green power aggregation, Mass Energy funded a report that included a discussion of Municipalities as Aggregators of Other Customers¹. This report notes over 500 million kWh/year is consumed by all of Newton. A one cent change in the kWh cost represents more than five million dollars for Newton ratepayers.

Newton will now have to allocate additional staff resources as well as retain consultants to further study this opportunity. It is recognized there is no guarantee these expenditures of staff time and City funds will have a good outcome; a reduction in generation charges and a savings of energy and money for Newton ratepayers. However, the Department of Telecommunications and Energy could improve the chances of same by reducing barriers to local government aggregation. The Department should also consider providing resources to all Massachusetts communities interested in providing an alternative to the provisions of default service in 2005.

Thank you for the Department of Telecommunications and Energy continued interest in energy matters in Newton.

Sincerely,

David Tannozzini
Electrical Engineer
Newton Public Buildings Department

cc: Mayor David B. Cohen,
Commissioner A. Nicholas Parnell, A.I.A.

¹ Green Power and Energy Efficiency Opportunities for Municipalities in Massachusetts. Promoting Community Involvement in Energy and Environmental Decisions, May 22, 2002.

Tim Woolf
Synapse Energy Economics
22 Pearl Street, Cambridge, MA 02139
www.synapse-energy.com